



J. L. LORA

2020

Challenges, discoveries,
inspiration, love,
and nourishing my soul as
we stayed home.

CONTENT

jll
LORA

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Larimar

Editor's Word J. L. LORA



As we close 2020, I want to reflect on a year that has been challenging, at times sad and heart-breaking, but others inspiring, fulfilling, and hopeful.

*I want to say a huge **thank you** to my amazing rock and support group, my family and friends.*

To my Alpha readers Angil, Vera, and Crystal. To the Damned Mob of Scribbling Women — Audrey Coulombis, Cate Tayler, Laralyn Doran, and Shadow Leitner.

To the Fairy Cartel, Dawn Ibañez, T. B. Bond, and Nancy C. Weeks.

Thank you Kim for being more than a VA. You keep me sane. I appreciate you!

Thank you to all my readers and followers. I hope you all enjoy this magazine and make sure to check out the end for a little treat. Stay Fearless!

Xoxo

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2020

A case for the Threes, Fours, and Fives

We keep hearing and saying the word unprecedented when we refer to 2020. There's so much about this year we have not seen before. It changed our lives and forced us to look at the world differently. There were so many sad moments, so much heartbreak, but I want to focus on the good for this magazine. Today I want to talk about lists of fives, fours, and threes that had a positive effect this year or that I'm speaking into existence for 2021. Let's start with the big G...**Gratitude**.

Five things I'm grateful for

1. Loved ones and their health – We lost dear friends this year. I think nearly everyone has been impacted by this virus. Some members of the family were sick, and friends battled serious illnesses. I am so thankful that my family members recovered and that my friends came away victorious.
2. Video apps – because they helped me stay in touch with family and friends. Apps like Zoom, Google Meet, FaceTime, and Skype brought us a new way to stay close. We can see each other smile, have parties, and bridge the gap.
3. YouTube – I'm a Google and YouTube girl. When I want to learn how to do something, I'm always re-searching it or watching video tutorials. During the time we've been home, I've discovered new factions of YouTube and tapped into a side of myself I thought didn't exist. The DIYer. I was always awful at arts and crafts as a kid. No talent whatsoever, but in 2020 I discovered I can actually create quite a lot of things. Some were not so good, but some were really pretty and crafty. From candle holders to flower arrangements to my nails, I've gotten them all done by learning on YouTube.
4. Flexibility – I didn't write as much as I hoped, but the time at home allowed me to adapt to other changes like a new position at work, some home renovations and making my home office more functional.
5. Nature – Hiking, walking, getting to know new places around me.

I'll be talking about the fours and the threes as we move on. Stay tuned!

JL





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2020 THE UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

At the end of 2019, most of us were looking forward to the new year. I had so many plans and it started out great. But once February got in full swing, and we began to get more information about the pandemic, it became clear that our lives would change. Socially distancing became a thing. When the term was introduced we scratched our heads but it quickly became a way of life. There's been so much sadness, heartbreak, and fear this year but we've also seen hope, reconnecting, and resurgence. We've found new ways of staying in touch while we socially-distancing. This year I want to celebrate the ways we found to cope, how we learn to thrive, and what kept us sane.

STAYING HOME ALL THE TIME

I began working from home full time the first week in march. I thought it would last a month but nine months later, we are still here. We are still home. And with cases on the rise again, we seem to be regressing back to the first months of the pandemic. But hope has always been there. We've got to keep our spirits up.

HIKING FOR YOUR SANITY

One of the things that came from being home. When my friend Viv asked us to come for a hike, I didn't know it would become such an important part of my year. I couldn't imagine how it would help us all stay sane.

THE BESTIE OF BESTIES GETS AN HEA

I had two releases in 2020: *The Longest Day* and *The Autumn You Became Mine*. The first is a novella and the second a full length book that tells Lauren & Chase's road to their *Happily Ever After*. it was one of my most emotional stories. Some readers have call it emotional whiplash at its best.



HIKING TURNED OUT TO BE A SAFE WAY TO BE OUT A SAFE WAY TO BE OUT OF THE HOUSE, GET FRESH AIR, GET SOME MUCH NEEDED EXCERCISE, AND STAY CONNECTED WITH FRIENDS.

I DID NOT KNOW THERE ARE SO MANY AMAZING PARKS AND VIEWS NEAR ME.



According to WebMD, Hiking can help you:

- Lower your risk of heart disease.
- Improve your blood pressure and blood sugar levels.
- Boost bone density, since walking is a weight-bearing exercise.
- Build strength in your glutes, quadriceps, hamstrings, and the muscles in your hips and lower legs.
- Strengthen your core.
- Improve balance.
- Help control your weight.
- Boost your mood.





The fours and threes

Four things that made me smile in 2020

1. Phone chats with my nieces and nephews. They're growing up so fast, and they have strong but different personalities. Having a three-year-old say things like, "are you not understanding me?" is a trip for sure.
2. Feeling the sun in my face and breathing fresh air after spending so much time cooped up in the house. Even being sore after climbing over rocks and trees didn't bother me.
3. Writing – Because this year proved to be so challenging as an author, I doubly enjoyed sitting in front of my MacBook and getting lost in Lauren & Chase's whiplash of a love story.
4. The Fairy Cartel & The Damned Mob – My author girls and I kept each other afloat, challenged each other, and held each other accountable in the midst of this pandemic.



Three things I look forward to in 2021

1. Traveling – First to New York, then the Dominican Republic, and to at least one country I haven't ever been to.
2. Staying more physically active & continuing to find great spots near me. I want to be outside more. I'm planning on dragging my friends with me.
3. Finishing my A Love for All Seasons series and continuing my other two projects that are in progress.

The appetizer

Todo lo que pueda salir mal...
Yes, whatever can go wrong will go wrong.

When my best friend and her baseball legend husband hired me to coordinate their exclusive baby shower, I saw the heavens open. With tons of media and bloggers present, you couldn't buy this level of exposure.

I was so close to pulling it off seamlessly. But family drama won't let me be great. Neither will the presence of the man I can't say no to.

Chase can make me smile all day with a single text. His every touch is engraved on my skin. His kiss burns on my lips. And it always leads to disaster.

Why should today be any different?

THEY MADE ME GIVE THEM TWO STORIES.

I knew Lauren and Chase would be trouble. As an author you can tell early on. When two characters put themselves everywhere, when they keep shinning in other characters' stories. They show up in scene after scene until you find yourself writing their scenes and having to store them away.

From the first scenes of *The Summer I Loved You* the friendship between Adri and Lauren told me the best friend was going to get her own book. Lauren always stood by her friend when Adri was a pregnant. She was Winter's rock in *The Winter of My Love*. She's always the for those she loves. Lauren's loyal to her own detriment at times. Naturally, her hero had to be worthy of her.

Chase is damaged and reckless but loving and loyal. He carries a heavy baggage and a love that's been etched in his heart since he was a boy. His and Lauren's story spans over ten years with obstacles constantly standing in their way. It's no wonder their story spans between two books. *The Longest Day*, a novella, and *The Autumn You Became Mine*.

Read *The Longest Day* **exclusively** on Kindle Unlimited
amazon.com/dp/Bo8JSJV782



THE DAREDEVIL GOES TO BATTLE FOR THE

Warrior

My feet are heavy, but I force myself to walk fast. I open the door and beeline for the kitchen. I need to get back and finish my short shift without incidents. I cross past the dining room in quick steps, and I'm almost home free, with the kitchen entrance in sight. I can always leave through the back door and avoid any encounters...with the six-foot-five inches of man standing in front of the small bar.

My chest tightens so hard I can't breathe. Damn it. Almost made it. I didn't have a chance to prepare myself, even though I've been thinking about the moment I had to face him since Adri told me Cam was bringing him back to town. I wanted to be normal about this, but I think that chance is shot to shit, now that our gazes are locked on each other.

His elbow is even with the top of that counter, like it was built for his height. I can't help but ogle the Henley clinging to his chest like a wrinkle that refuses to iron out. He's wearing dark jeans and shades. Everything about him is delicious, from his body to his lips, even with that swollen jaw. It's hard to imagine that someone could manage to hit him.

"Hi Lauren," he says, taking a swig of the bottle of ginger beer in his hand. He's calm and unbothered. Unlike me. My insides are rumbling like rolling thunder. My face is burning hot, and I have to squelch the urge to touch it.

Jesus, what is wrong with me? I left these feelings behind me four months ago. And I'm the only one affected. There's indifference in Chase's gaze. As if I were merely another waitress in the bistro.

If he can play it this cool, so can I.

"Hi, Chase. How are you?" My voice is even, like I'm cool too.

"I'm okay. You?"

"Okay too." Jesus. What do I say?

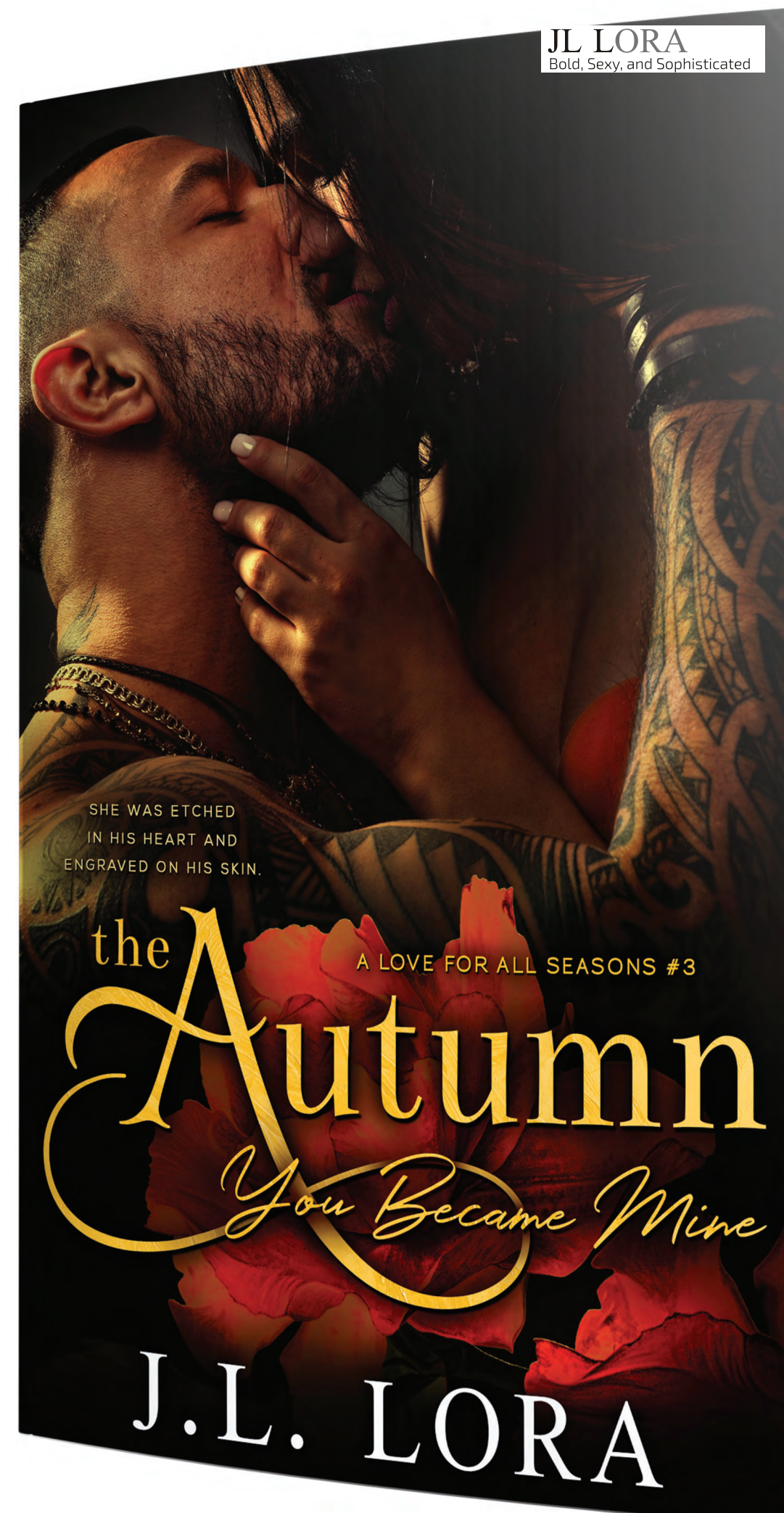
Cam and Adri rush down the stairs, breaking our eye contact.

Chase's gaze goes to his brother. "I'm ready to go."

That's it? He's done. A heat wave rises up my body. Well, Lauren, are you going to fucking stand there and watch him walk away again? No, I'm not doing that.

READ MORE exclusively on:

Amazon: <https://amzn.to/37qJXFZ>



Books to read

Hunter's Creed by T. B. Bond

A sexy vampire lord with a price on his head. An undercover assassin ready to take on the contract. Will her role as his executioner thwart their chance at happiness?

Shoot first, ask questions later.

Vashti Hunter is all about the job, and this is her last assignment. Once she takes out the vampire lord responsible for the deaths of her family, she can retire. Naturally, this task is her most challenging. There is no time for a meddling bartender best friend, her cover job running the hottest vampire club in Richmond, or her sexy high and mighty boss. She wants to get in and get out, not catch feelings.

Not just any woman will do.

Tyrone Essex is a single vampire lord without an heir. He can't be bothered with entanglements though his colleagues think otherwise. To appease his fellow lords, he applies for a contract wife but instead finds his mate. The woman invokes a hunger within him that hadn't distracted him in decades. She's dangerous, elusive prey which makes him want her more—all he has to do is outwit her in the game of secrets.

Fate brings the two together in a twisted sense of sexy humor at Tyrone's club. They both have to dance around each other to make it work. Will the two navigate the land of black and white to the world of grays, or miss out on their destiny?

amzn.to/2KqDul3



Stolen Moments by Dawn Ibañez

Call me 'Dorian.'"

They continued to move together as the tempo of the music sped up. Dorian turned his face into Cristal's neck and inhaled her scent. She smelled of sugar and sin, and Dorian couldn't hide the fact that he wanted to devour her.

Cristal straddled one of his legs and pressed her body even closer to his. She turned her face towards him, and Dorian saw the playful glint in her eyes. "Now that you have me, what do you plan on doing with me, Dorian?" One hand played with the hair at the nape of his neck while the other rubbed against his hard length.

He chuckled before covering her mouth with his. Her hand tightened around him, and he groaned. Dorian parted her lips with his tongue and tasted her. As expected, she tasted as good as she smelled. He would need a way to find her again. Cristal wasn't the kind of witch he could just bed and forget. He needed to taste and savor, as any fine connoisseur would.

He broke the kiss and inhaled as she licked at his lips. "At the moment, nothing."

It killed him to step back from her. The magic in the air chilled his heated body. He cupped her cheek in one hand and gently rubbed his thumb along her bottom lip. Dorian leaned to her ear. "I need to play the role of host. But eventually, I am going to do my best to ruin your lipstick."

The shock on her face quickly morphed to humor. "I know the witch that created this. You'll have your work cut out for you."

He took her hand and kissed her knuckles. "Challenge accepted my dear," he said before walking away from her.

Dorian passed the vampire twins and shook his head once. They both nodded to him and went about their business. They would make sure no one else tried to move in on Cristal. She didn't know it yet, but she was going to be his. For however long he wanted to keep her around.

amzn.to/3hhkyl3



JL LORA
Bold, Sexy, and Sophisticated

this holiday

The Protector by Nancy C. Weeks

Detective Nathan D'Azzo's last conversation with his father lasted long enough for the cracking sound of a sniper's bullet to hit its target. He hunts his father's killer to the doorstep of a renown federal judge. Timothy Jarrett and his enforcer are the brains behind a massive gang alliance and between them is Olivia Weaver, a woman with a web of secrets miles long. Nathan will bring them to their knees.

Olivia Bennett wants two things, the cancer eating her mother alive eradicated and a place they both can disappear. When a seemingly innocent man tries to save her life, she breaks her number one rule, never get involved. She should have left Nathan, AKA Drew Parker, D'Azzo to the wolves. He's one of them.

When Nathan unravels small pieces of Olivia's life, his protective instincts jolt to the surface. A darkness pulls them further apart. Can they forgive each other long enough to save one another?

amzn.to/2S9EImh



More to read

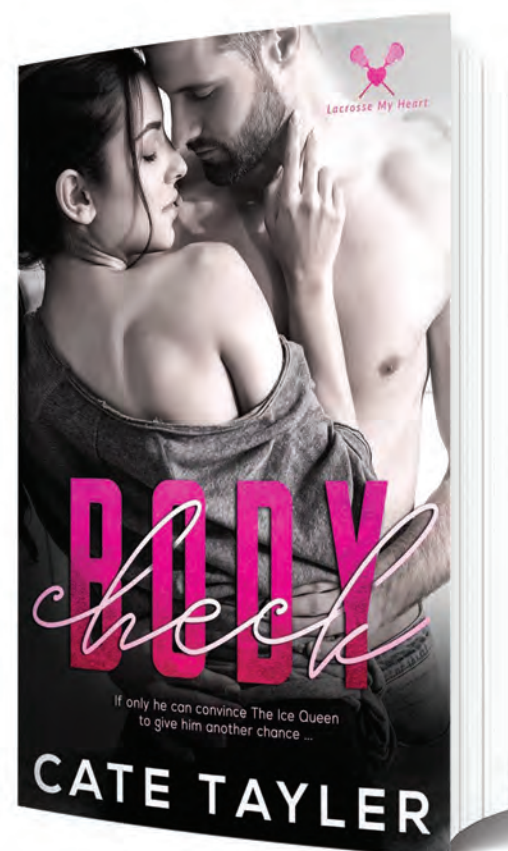
Body Check by Cate Tayler

Previously Released as Taking the Shot

Professional lacrosse player Avalon Rivera, “The Ice Queen”, has been in love with her best friend’s older brother since she was a kid. But after his stinging rejection, she wrote him off for good. Eight years later, he’s back in her life and the lacrosse star is forced to work with him to salvage her team’s reputation, or she’ll lose the career she’s fought hard for.

JJ Jennings is a premiere player in men’s professional lacrosse, both on the field and off. But when he is reunited with Ava, the young girl he once thought of like a sister, he’s tempted into becoming a one-woman man. If only he can convince The Ice Queen to give him another chance to heat up her sheets and thaw her heart.

amzn.to/2KqDul3



A Fast Woman by Laralyn Doran

One contract—two drivers.

Neither saw the other invade their blind spot until the competition—and their chemistry—threatened to ruin both of their careers.

CJ Lomax

People call me a fast woman—not because I slept around—because I broke men’s hearts on the racetrack. While climbing stock car’s highest level of racing I learned three truths: Adrenaline was my drug of choice, wearing heels was a form of torture and I didn’t have time for distractions—especially from men. I had one goal—a Cup Series contract—and it was within my reach.

Until he cut me off—sending me, and my dreams into a tailspin.

His smile, his charm, his talent...his touch. My damn hormones were overriding my focus.

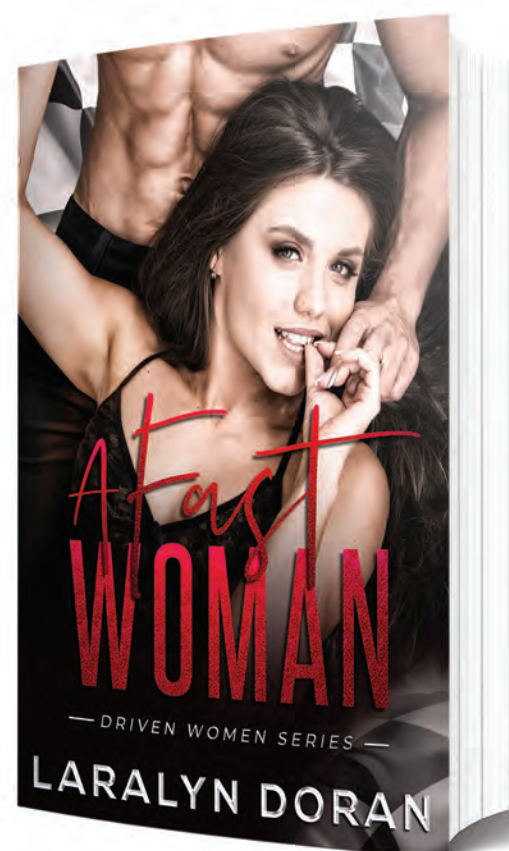
Grady McBane

The moment the beautiful spitfire CJ Lomax tripped into my arms, it felt right. Then Karma stepped in and laughed—redeeming my reputation meant ruining her dream. Even though I needed the contract to salvage my career I found myself chasing her instead of racing her.

Her focus, her sass, her grit...her passion. I wanted it...I wanted her.

How do we cross the finish line without wrecking each other’s hearts?

buff.ly/3gzA61D



Mystic Bonds by C. C. Solomon

Paranormal World: Book One

Mage Amina Langston thought surviving the supernatural apocalypse was the biggest challenge in her life. That is, until she and her brother go on the run from non-gifted humans who want to steal their magical blood to make a power-giving serum. Now she’s in search of a handsome stranger who keeps appearing in her dreams and a secret paranormal city to help free those still held in captivity for their blood.

During her journey, Amina befriends several other magical beings also searching for the mysterious town, including a sexy were-jackal who distracts her from locating the man of her proverbial dreams. However, when the group finds the city, it’s filled with dangerous magic and a barbaric were-pack. Facing these new troubles, will Amina take down her human pursuers and save the other paranormals she left behind or end up in greater peril?

Fans of Patricia Briggs and Illona Andrews will love this adventure and romance urban fantasy. If you are looking for a series with diverse characters with great chemistry check it out.

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AS THE WORLD REVOLVES around *Trin*

If this year was unprecedented for us humans who understand (at least a little better) what's going on in the world, imagine being a cat.

For the first few months of the stay at home orders (March through May), Trin used to look at me like "why are you here so much?"

She's very much a her people person but she also enjoys having the house to herself when she can.

Trin like all of us went through her adjustment period with all of this but now she is used to us being home (and the extra treats she gets. I think in her mind she figures if we get a few times a day, so should she.

It's been super interesting spending this time with her. We donated her fancy little yurt to the kittens at Cupboard Maker Books.

If you have not heard, Cupboard Maker Books is a bookstore in Enola, PA. It's not only a book haven but also a haven for kittens. They have resident cats Annika and Squeekie and this year they added Mouse, a beautiful and sweet kitten.

He authored wrote his first book, Mouse, The Bookstore Kitten and of course, I bought a copy for Trin and I.

The Cupboard Maker Books staff works with Castaway Critters to find forever homes for kittens looking to be adopted. If you have it in your heart, consider adopting a kitten. It will change your life.

If you're in Enola, please stop by Cupboard Maker Books. You'll love it there. You can also visit their website.

www.CupboardMaker.com
157 N Enola Rd, Enola, PA 17025



Promises

In 2021, I will:

Stay connected with family and friends. An important lesson of 2020 was how important the human connection is, especially with our loved ones.

- Work more on helping those who need it most. Donations, blessing bags, our time, we all have something we can give and that someone else can really use.
- Ask people more often, "are you okay?" We don't ask this enough. It breaks my heart that so many people are carrying such a heavy load, even those we know. We have to keep watching out for one another.
- Practice more gratefulness, mindfulness, and awareness. Self-care is important.
- Go to the beach at least three times.
- Write three books.
- Read more than three books.



New city. New job. New life.

Recently divorced single-mom, Sierra Torres' life is a hot mess. And now, her car's been stolen. When she reports the theft, a tall and broad-shouldered blast from her past walks in. Years ago, he disappeared without a trace after a perfect seven minutes in heaven.

The provider. The supporter. The survivor.

Police officer Matthew Hunter lives to serve and protect, not only the people of Baltimore City, but what's left of his family. He's the responsible one—the reliable cop. Seeing Sierra again ignites a fire in him he thought he extinguished a long time ago. One look into her fiery brown eyes and it all comes back. But Sierra's not interested in romance—just a little fun.

However, hearts have a mind of their own. Feelings deepen each time they see each other. Soon, that's not enough. They crave more. But when things begin to unravel after their past catches up with them, are their seven minutes in heaven over for good?

Don't miss the .99 cent sale 12-29-20 to 01-04-21

My gifts to you!

Start your holidays with my free short story.

You met Adri & Cam in *The Summer I Loved You*. You laughed, cried, and smiled with them and their daughter Bronwyn in the journey to Love. In this epilogue, you get to find out how their *Happily Ever Happy* is unfolding.

Download *All I Ever Wanted*
[HTTPS://WWW.JLLORA.COM/BOOKS/ALL-I-EVER-WANTED](https://www.jllora.com/books/all-i-ever-wanted)



In my newsletter, I share information about my books, characters, and so much more. Sign up and stay connected with me for upcoming news, releases, events, freebies and much more

Speaking of freebies, you can get a free copy of *Some Nights*, a refreshing and intoxicating story that you'll love.

And just in time for its sister story, *Some Mornings*, .99 sale.

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Happy Holidays, Loves!



Bold Sexy Sophisticated

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